



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No: 37697-0033

Applicant(s): Edward W. MERRILL *et al.* Confirmation No.: 8881
Serial No.: 09/764,445 Examiner: Duc Truong
Filing Date: January 19, 2001 Group Art Unit: 1711
Title: RADIATION AND MELT TREATED ULTRA HIGH MOLECULAR WEIGHT POLYETHYLENE PROSTHETIC DEVICES

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants herein respond to the Office Action mailed May 28, 2004 (Paper No. 16). Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments to the application and request reconsideration of the rejections of record in view of the following remarks.

Applicants petition for a three-month extension of time, as well as any other needed extensions, and provide the requisite fee herewith. Please debit any underpayments, or credit any overpayments, to firm deposit account no. 08-1641.

Applicants request that Examination of this the application be conducted with the "special dispatch" required by MPEP §§ 708.01(F), 2307.